

- c. That certain large breeding colonies enjoy absolute protection from any kind of disturbance.
- d. That some official be appointed whose duty is to enforce the law of bird protection and ensure that culprits are adequately punished.
- e. That education includes teaching the young that cruelty is one of the worst human vices.

A New Race of Babbler from West Africa

By DR. WILLIAM SERLE

Exhibited at the December meeting of the B.O.C.

Illadopsis cleaveri marchanti, new race.

Description : Distinguished from all known races of *Illadopsis cleaveri* (Shelley) in that the forehead, crown, and nape are dark olive-grey not black ; in that there is a reduction in the breadth of the stripe which extends from the base of the bill over the eye and ear coverts to the side of the neck, and in that the anterior part of that stripe is buffish-grey, not grey or white. Further distinguished from *Illadopsis cleaveri johnsoni* (Büttikofer) and *Illadopsis cleaveri batesi* (Sharpe) in that the flanks and under tail coverts are rufous-buff not olive-brown, and from *Illadopsis cleaveri cleaveri* (Shelley) and *Illadopsis cleaveri poensis* (Bannerman) in that the rufous-buff of the flanks and under tail coverts is lighter in shade when compared with those two forms.

Distribution : The Owerri and Rivers Provinces of the Eastern Region of Nigeria.

Type : In the British Museum. Adult male, Omanelu, 5° 12' N. 6° 52' E. Rivers Province, Nigeria. 5th August, 1953. Collected by Dr. William Serle. Collector's No. N.2107. Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1955.59.1.

Measurements of Type : Wing 76, culmen 14, tail 55, tarsus 26 mm.

Remarks : Named after Mr. S. Marchant who at Owerri obtained the first specimen (badly damaged) of this new form, and who, whilst refraining from naming it drew attention to its distinguishing characters in the Bull. Brit. Orn. Club (1950), vol. 70, p. 27.

Immature plumage : A newly fledged female juvenile (wing 66, tail 42 mm.) was obtained with the adult type. Entire upperparts from forehead to upper tail coverts, and including the wing coverts and inner secondaries, washed with rusty-brown. Chin and throat white. Breast, flanks, and under tail coverts rusty-rufous, with obscure dusky smudges on the breast and flanks. Even at this early stage it is distinguished from the fledglings of *I.c.batesi* and *I.c.poensis* by the grey not black crown and nape.

Field notes : The type and the juvenile female were obtained together in the undergrowth in rain forest of mixed primary and secondary growth. Both had eaten insects.

The distribution of Illadopsis cleaveri (Shelley) with a diagnostic key of its races.—In the course of identifying the new race the following material was examined in the British Museum and my own collection—*I. c. cleaveri*, two unsexed specimens (one the type) ; *I. c. johnsoni*, one female ;

I. c. marchanti, two males (one the type) and one juvenile female ; *I. c. batesi*, a long series including the type ; *I. c. poensis*, two males (one the type) and one juvenile male. The characters and distribution of the races is as follows :—

Illadopsis cleaveri johnsoni (Büttikofer)

Eye stripe greyish white, crown black, throat and breast grey of a darker shade than any other race, flanks and under tail coverts olive-brown. Wing, 1 adult♀, 67 mm. Range : Sierra Leone (see Ostrich, 1949, p. 4) to Liberia.

Illadopsis cleaveri cleaveri (Shelley)

Eye stripe greyish white, crown black, breast light grey, flanks and under tail coverts rufous-buff. Wing, 2 unsexed adults 69, 68 mm. Range : Gold Coast.

Illadopsis cleaveri marchanti, Serle.

Eye stripe buffish-grey, anteriorly, grey posteriorly, crown dark olive-grey, breast grey, lightly washed rufous, flanks and under tail coverts bright rufous-buff. Wing, 2 adult♂, 77, 76 mm.

Range : Owerri and Rivers Provinces of Eastern Region, Nigeria.

Illadopsis cleaveri batesi (Sharpe).

Eye stripe grey, crown black, breast grey washed olive-brown, flanks and under tail coverts olive-brown (in a few individuals from the western extremity of its range lightly washed rufous). Wing, 10 adult♂, 74-84 ; 10 adult♀, 69-74 mm.

Range : Obudu Division of Ogoja Province Eastern Region of Nigeria to Gaboon.

Illadopsis cleaveri poensis (Bannerman)

Eye stripe grey, crown black, mantle darker in shade than any other race, breast olive-brown, flanks and under tail coverts dull rufous-buff. Wing, 2 adult♂, 77, 77 mm.

Range : Fernando Po.

An Icelandic Redshank in freshly moulted Summer Plumage in November*

By DR. JAMES M. HARRISON AND DR. JEFFERY G. HARRISON

Received 29th November, 1955, and subsequently modified.

On November 9th, 1955 one of us collected a female Icelandic Redshank, *Tringa totanus robusta* Schiöler, on Milfordhope Marsh, Medway Estuary, Kent. The bird is a female, the wing measuring 169 mm., thus placing it within the measurements of the Icelandic race. The ovary was identical in size to that of a second female Redshank shot on the same day ; both measuring 7×4 mm. The skull was incompletely pneumatized, but this is a species which does not develop full pneumatization and therefore these findings cannot be used as an indication of the age of the bird.

The Icelandic example was remarkable for being in advanced *freshly moulted* summer plumage, the head and neck being streaked with black, the breast and flanks strongly spotted and streaked and the mantle showing

* Exhibited before the B.O.C. at the December, 1955 meeting.